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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. MTI-31529

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Ronald A. Weimer

Serial No. : 09/935,255

Filing Date : August 22, 2001

FAX RECEIVED

For : Method of Composite Gate Formation

JUL 11 2003

Group Art Unit : 2813

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Examiner : CHEN, Jack S. J.

Confirmation No. : 1208

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a) and 1.10

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being transmitted to Fax No. 703-872-9318 addressed to Examiner CHEN at the US Patent and Trademark Office.

Date: 7-10-3


Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FOURTH REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed June 18, 2003, in the above-identified patent application. The Examiner requires Applicant to state whether Claims 97-121 read on the elected Species 1.

The elected Species 1 (claims 1-17 and 97-121) is directed to methods of forming a nitride barrier by exposing a silicon layer to a nitrogen-containing gas.

Claim 1 is generic.

1. A method of forming a nitride barrier layer, comprising the steps of:
exposing a dielectric layer to a silicon-containing gas under low partial pressure to deposit a layer of silicon thereon; and
exposing the silicon layer to a nitrogen-containing gas to form a silicon nitride barrier layer.

All of Claims 97-121 *depend from and include all of the limitations of Claim 1*.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that all of Claims 97-121 are readable on Claim 1.

Claims 1-57 and 73-121 are presently pending.

Serial No. 09/935,255

Response to Restriction

Applicant again traverses the Examiner requirement for election of species for the reasons previously submitted, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for election of species.

Applicant notes that the election of species is for the purpose of prosecution on the merits, and that Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species upon allowance of a generic claim. It is understood that if the claims of the elected Species 1 are found allowable over the prior art, the Examiner will expand the search to include other species — i.e., original Species 2-32, and secondary Species 1-4 and 6-10.

Extension of Term. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.

Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned Attorney if any questions should arise or further discussion would expedite the examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,


Kristine M. Strothoff
Reg. No. 34,259

Dated: JULY 11, 2003

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